

Remarks

35 U.S.C. §103

On page 2 of the Office Action, at paragraphs 1 and 2, claims 1 to 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoenberg (US 4,514,465) in view of Longmoore et al. (US 6,497,965) and Crass (US 4,777,081) . Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent it is applied to the claims as now presented.

Independent claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 2 to 6) have been canceled.

Independent claim 7 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 8 to 13) recite directly, or by dependency, that at least one of the first substrate layer, the second substrate layer, the first outer layer, and the second outer layer comprises a blend of i) amidic wax, and ii) transition metal salt of stearic acid, or ester of stearic acid.

Independent claim 14 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 15 to 20) recite directly, or by dependency, that at least one of the first outer layer, the second outer layer, and the substrate layer, comprises a blend of i) amidic wax, and ii) transition metal salt of stearic acid, or ester of stearic acid.

Of the three references cited in the Office Action, the Office Action does not refer to any teachings in either Schoenberg or Longmoore et al. with respect to a transition metal salt of stearic acid, or ester of stearic acid.

The Office Action does refer to Crass et al. as teaching

blends of fatty acid amides and stearates used in the core layer of the film to decrease the level of bloom that occurs at the surface.

On page 3 of the Office Action, at paragraph 9, the Office Action concludes that

[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used higher levels of stearates and fatty acid amides in the intermediate layers of the films taught by Schoenberg in order to control the bloom of the slip agents to the surface of the films.

Applicants respectfully disagree. No teaching in Schoenberg has been presented with respect to a blend of stearates and fatty acid amides. Thus, there would have been no motivation to increase the levels of the stearates and fatty acid amides of Schoenberg.

Crass et al. teaches the use of a stearic acid amide. No teaching has been pointed to in Crass et al. that is directed to transition metal salt of stearic acid, or ester of stearic

acid; or to a blend of i) amidic wax, and ii) transition metal salt of stearic acid, or ester of stearic acid.

It is thus submitted that no prima facie case has been established for the invention of claims 7 to 20.

Applicants thus respectfully ask for allowance of the claims as now presented.

If any fees are deemed due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 07-1765.

Respectfully submitted,

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